

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are pending.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 1, 3, 5, and 8-9 are allowed.

Claims 2, 4, and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by Kikuchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,606,715.

The claims have been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter of the present invention. In particular, claims 1-5 have been amended to recite "storage system" instead of "storage subsystem". No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment of claims 1-5.

As to the Section 102 rejection of claims 2, 4, and 6-7, independent claim 2 has been amended to more clearly recite a salient aspect of the present invention, and incorporates subject matter that is similarly recited in the allowed claims. The present invention is directed to a storage system. According to the present invention, user data can be transferred between the cache memory and a disk drive based on instructions received from a host computer that is connected to the storage system.

Accordingly, claim 2 has been amended to recite that user data "on the at least one disk drive is stored to the cache memory in response to a first instruction from the host computer." Further the user data can be "removed from the cache memory and stored to the at least one disk drive in response to a second instruction from the host computer."


Kikuchi describes storing "forming state" information in a cache memory to facilitate recovery from an interruption during a block transfer. *Abstract*. Kikuchi, however, does not disclose transferring data between cache and a disk drive in response to instructions received from a host computer, which are neither read instructions nor write instructions.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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